

Message Text

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SUBJ: DETECTION, PREVENTION, AND PROSECUTION OF ILLICIT USE OF
NARCOTICS IN QATAR

1. RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DETECTION, PREVENTION, AND PROSECUTION OF
ILLICIT USE OF DRUG/NARCOTICS IN QATAR LIES WITH THE COMMANDANT OF TH
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POLICE, BRIGADIER (SHAYKH) HAMAD BIN JASIM AL THANI, SON OF SHAYKH
JASIM BIN HAMAD, THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, A D NEPHEW OF THE RULER,
SHAYKH KHALIFA BIN HAMAD. THIS RESPONSIBILITY IS DELEGATED BY HIM TO
THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DEPARTMENT (CID) (DA'IRAH AL-TAHQIQAT
AL-JINAWJIYYA), TO THE INTERPOL SECTION OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND
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THE REGIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT, DEPENDI G T THE LOCATION AND TYPE OF

NARCOTICS OFFENSE COMMITTED.

2. CASES INVOLVING SMALL AMOUNTS OF NARCOTICS, GENERALLY REGARDED AS
SEVERAL GRAMS, AMOUNTS INTENDED FOR INDIVIDUAL USE AND OT RE-SALE,
ARE HANDLED BY THE REGIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT OF WHICH THERE ARE FOUR
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DOHA, THE NORTH, UMM SA'ID, AND DUKHAN. CASES INVOLVING LARGER
QUANTITIES ARE HANDLED BY THE CID, COMMANDED BY MAJOR MUHAMMAD
RASHIDAN. THE CID OFFICE IS LOCATED IN DOHA OFF RAYYAN STREET BEHIND
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SALAM STUDIOS.

3. CASES INVOLVING THE SMUGGLING OF DRUGS/NARCOTICS INTO OR OUT OF QATAR OR OTHERWISE HAVING INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS ARE HANDLED BY THE

INTERPOL OFFICE WHICH LIKE THE CID REPORTS DIRECTLY TO THE POLICE COMMANDANT. THE INTERPOL SECTION IS HEADED BY MAJOR JA'FAR ABD AL RAHMAN, A SUDANESE POLICE OFFICER SECONDED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF QATAR IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY. NO INCIDENTS INVOLVING THE CONFISCATION OF LARGE QUANTITIES OF NARCOTICS DESTINED EITHER FOR QATAR OR FOR TRANSSHIPMENT ELSEWHERE HAVE BEEN DETECTED. INTERPOL IS LOCATED IN POLICE HEADQUARTERS BUILDING.

4. NO CENTRAL NARCOTICS OFFICE AND NO SPECIAL, TRAINED STAFF EXISTS TO HANDLE NARCOTICS MATTERS. PLANS TO REMEDY THIS VACUUM ARE HAMPERED BY THE SERIOUS LACK OF MANPOWER IN QATAR, AND BY THE FACT THAT THE LOW INCIDENCE RATE OF ILLICIT DRUG/NARCOTICS ABUSE DOES NOT MAKE THIS A PRIORITY PROJECT. WHILE MANPOWER IS A PROBLEM THAT AFFECTS ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS BECAUSE OF THE SMALL INDIGENOUS QATARI POPULATION, THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND BY EXTENSION A PROPOSED NARCOTICS DIVISION, IS ESPECIALLY AFFECTED BECAUSE AMBITIOUS

TALENTED QATARIS PREFER EMPLOYMENT IN MORE "PRESTIGIOUS" GOVERNMENT JOBS. AS FOR THE LOW INCIDENCE RATE OF ILLICIT DRUG/NARCOTIC USE IN QATAR, IT IS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE WHETHER

THE INCIDENCE RATE IS LOW BECAUSE NARCOTIC USE IN QATAR IS NOT GENUINELY POPULAR, OR THAT THE REPORTING RATE IS LOW BECAUSE NO SPECIFIC EFFORT IS MADE TO DETECT AND PREVENT ILLICIT DRUG USE. FOR EXAMPLE, WHILE THE QATAR POLICE DO ACT ON EVERY REPORT OR TIP INVOLVING THE ILLICIT USE OF DRUGS, THEY DO NOT MAKE AN ACTIVE EFFORT TO SEEK OUT DRUG USERS. THE POLICE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT DRUGS ARE USED BY THE ILLITERATE, ALIEN MANUAL LABORERS, AND NOT BY THE BETTER EDUCATED, ALIEN WHITE COLLAR WORKERS. HENCE BOTH GROUPS ARE LEFT ALONE UNLESS THERE IS A SPECIFIC COMPLAINT. THE EMBASSY IS INCLINED TO BELIEVE, IN THE ABSENCE OF OTHER EVIDENCE, THAT QATARIS IN GENERAL ABSTAIN FROM DRUG USE, AND THOSE THAT DO ARE FEW IN NUMBER, SO THAT THE ACTUAL INCIDENCE RATE IS PROBABLY NOT MUCH HIGHER THAN THAT ACTUALLY REPORTED BY THE QATAR POLICE.

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5. THE REPORTING OFFICER'S CHECK OF THE OFFICIAL POLICE FILES ON DRUG ABUSE CASES FOR 1974 REVEALED ONLY TWELVE CASES OF ARREST AND CONVICTION. THE ENTIRE AMOUNT OF NARCOTICS INVOLVED IN THESE TWELVE CASES WAS APPROXIMATELY TWENTY-SIX KILOS, ALMOST EQUALLY DIVIDED BETWEEN OPIUM AND HASHISH. OF THE TWELVE PERSONS ARRESTED, ONE WAS A QATARI CITIZEN, ONE WAS AN OMANI OF PAKISTANI ORIGIN, THREE WERE IRANIANS, AND EIGHT WERE PAKISTANIS. THE QATARI WAS CAUGHT WITH TWO GRAMS; THE OMAN-PAKISTANI WITH TEN KILOS; THE THREE

SEPARATE CASES OF IRANIANS INVOLVED EIGHT KILOS; THE PAKISTANIS WERE CAUGHT WITH THE BALANCE. EACH OF THE TWELVE WAS CONVICTED.

6. QATARI LAW REQUIRED THAT IN ALL CASES OF ARREST AND CONVICTION, THE JUDGE MUST PRONOUNCE A MINIMUM SENTENCE OF ONE YEAR IN PRISON AND THE PAYMENT OF QR 2,000 (ABOUT \$500.00) FINE. THE MAXIMUM PRISON SENTENCE IS FIVE YEARS, WITH THE FINE STILL QR 2,000. JUST HOW MUCH MORE ABOVE THE MINIMUM SENTENCE A DRUG ABUSER RECEIVES IS LEFT TO THE DISCRETION OF THE JUDGE; USUALLY SELLERS RECEIVE A LARGER SENTENCE THAN USERS. THE HIGH CRIMINAL COURT (AL-MAHKAMAT AL-JINATYYAH AL KUBRA) HEARS NARCOTICS CASES.

7. DESPITE THE FACT THAT THERE IS NO TRAINED STAFF OR A SPECIAL NARCOTICS DIVISION, THE QATARI POLICE DEPARTMENT TRIES TO KEEP UP WITH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO NARCOTIC ABUSE BY SENDING DELEGATES TO DIFFERENT CONFERENCES. IN APRIL 1975, MAJOR JA'FAR ABD AL RAHMAN REPRESENTED QATAR IN A CONFERENCE DEALING WITH NARCOTIC MATTERS HELD IN MANILA, THE PHILIPPINES. QATAR ALSO INTENDS TO SEND OFFICERS TO ATTEND A TRAINING SEMINAR ON NARCOTICS TO BE SPONSORED BY INTERPOL IN BAHRAIN AT A YET UNDERTERMINED DATE.

8. NARCOTICS ABUSE AND NARCOTICS SMUGGLING ARE NOT MAJOR PROBLEMS IN QATAR; UNTIL THEY BECOME SUCH, WE CAN EXPECT THAT PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THE ILLICIT USE OF NARCOTICS WILL CONTINUE TO BE HANDLED BY THE STAFF AND FACILITIES PRESENTLY EXISTING IN QATAR.
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